



**STUBBY, THE PICKETING PUSS** . . . Here she is, walking back and forth, loyal to the men who have been responsible for her well being, and for that of her kittens, her kittens' kittens, and for her kittens' kittens' kittens, while the United Steel workers and the employers spar for a settlement of the 19 1/2-cent-per-hour wage increase request, expected in the near future. Stubby "belongs" to Local 2470, at International Derrick & Equipment Co., but she told the photographer she would walk the line with her brother members of Local 1414, at Columbia Steel Co., if need be. Stubby, like the rest of the boys and girls, would rather be working, but she wants the same "take home" pay which she was accustomed to receiving during the war years. (Torrance Herald photo.)

## Protection Of Life, Property Costs Less Here

Torrance was one of the few cities of California, of comparable size, to enjoy a decrease in expenditure in the cost of protection of life and property in the year 1945-46 against that of the immediate prewar years, according to figures of the California Taxpayers Association.

Torrance spent \$72,451 for protection of life and property in 1939-40 and reached a high of \$104,231 in 1942-43, according to the figures, and then dropped back to \$96,029 in 1943-44.

Other cities of California, of comparable size, increased their expenditures in the year during which Torrance was able to realize its reduction of costs.

The over-all picture of all cities of California saw the costs increase that year from \$46,712,872 to \$51,089,643, while Torrance was realizing a reduction of almost 10 per cent.

Meanwhile, it is pointed out, Torrance is one of the best protected cities of its size and valuation in the state.

## Arson Attempt Of Warehouse Speculated

Multiple misdeeds or attempted arson that was the question puzzling Chief J. E. McMaster of the Torrance Fire Department under evidence found in the United Sulphur and Chemical building on 213th st. early Monday morning.

Small boys were believed to have dropped a large bundle of straw from an entrance made in the roof onto a stack of sulphur bags in the warehouse of the building. Fifty or more burned matches were found on and near the straw, also believed to have been dropped from the ceiling, distance of nearly 20 feet.

The matches apparently had burned out during the descent to the floor, thereby saving the building from certain ruin, McMaster said.

A small brown sports jacket was found by police on the roof of the building, near the entrance made by the intruders, which was believed to have been left by one of the boys.

## To Speak At Chamber Banquet

R. W. F. (Bob) Schmidt, superintendent of airports for the Civil Aeronautics Administration, will speak at the annual banquet of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce in the Civic auditorium Monday evening, Feb. 25, according to R. I. Plomert Jr., chairman in charge of the affair.

Schmidt has accepted the invitation to talk here, and was invited due to his prominence in aviation affairs and also to the interest which Torrance is taking in airport operation.

A General Petroleum film, "Ceiling, Unlimited," also will be shown. It depicts the progress of transportation in recent years and predicts future methods of traffic in both freight and passenger business.

## Ask the Professor

Dear Professor: Don't you think most folks would gladly pay 4 cents to send a letter? Answer: I know plenty who'd gladly pay a fortune to get some letters back.

## Stubby, The Picketing Cat, Talked But Reporter Couldn't Hear Her

"And why shouldn't I walk the picket line with these guys?"

This was the question put to a Herald photographer by Stubby, the IDECO striking cat.

"Hush, cat," the photographer answered as he tried to adjust for range. "Talk like that coming from a cat is fantastic. Besides I'm not interested in your personal opinion—I just want a picture of a pussy picketing," the photog snapped.

The International Derrick and Equipment strikers continued their march in front of the plant, but Stubby stopped to dog-eye the cameraman. She was not interested in talking to your reporter. Her beef now was with the man with the Speed Graphic.

"Get along with you now, kitty, back to your picket line," the photographer argued, "we don't want this picture here."

Pussy dog-eyed him again, also a dog across the street who was becoming too curious for a cat's comfort.

"I've lived in that plant all my life," Stubby began, "and my sis and Pa before me lived there. All my kittens were born here."

The photographer looked at the reporter pleadingly. "Can't you do something about this—it's so silly, so ridiculous—and, by the way, where is your pencil and paper? Don't you know that despite the fantasy, this thing is terrific—I have never heard a cat talking before."

"I don't hear anything," the reporter answered—cold sober.

The photog checked his pulse, then his equipment. He complained of an upset stomach as his eye sought the camera viewfinder.

"Shut up, cat. No one in his right health hears you, and straighten that picket sign around your middle," the sick man said sheepishly.

On the way back to the office, the photographer started talking about how tough it is for a cat with a big family to get by without her co-workers getting a raise. More money, more food for Stubby and her family. Stubby had given the better part of her years catching mice in the plant and getting out from under a lot of human feet.

"Who said so?" your reporter asked.

"Stubby," he answered, then again complained of his indigestion.

The cat was walking the picket line. She was carrying an official picket sign. But only the photographer heard her talk.

## CITY BOND ISSUE ELECTION FACES NEW DELAY; VOTE IN EARLY SUMMER IS PROPOSED

The people of Torrance will not be called upon to pass on the post-war building program of Torrance until early summer, it was indicated by Mayor W. H. Tolson Tuesday night.

"We find that it will be impossible to get the bond issue program ready for the voters at the spring election," Tolson declared.

## CHAPTER OF DE MOLAY IS REINSTITUTED

During a meeting in Torrance Masonic Temple Tuesday evening, the De Molay chapter reorganized with 28 local boys receiving their initiation degree into the order.

The advisory board was sworn in by Judge William R. McKay. The initiation degree was conferred by the Southwest chapter from the Angeles Vista lodge of Los Angeles. Other youths from the Santa Monica Chapter were also sworn in at this time, according to Frank Anderson, publicity advisor of the local order.

The Torrance De Molay chapter is sponsored by the Masonic lodge of this city, and is open to all boys from the ages of 14 to 21, Anderson said. Homer Morgan is "Dad" of the chapter.

## CAMERA CLUB OFFERS VALUABLE INSTRUCTIONS

A regular meeting of the Torrance Camera Club will be conducted in the Torrance Library Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m. Paul Hamilton, of General Electric Co., will be guest speaker. A 16-millimeter motion picture projector will be employed by Hamilton in screening the various uses of lenses.

Flash bulbs and synchronizers will be demonstrated and their uses explained during the meeting. Many camera clubs from near by cities have been invited to attend this gathering which promises to be the largest to date.

The program will be submitted to the people in some nine propositions, he said, reaching a total of approximately \$1,500,000. The proposals would be submitted as follows:

1. Water lines.
2. Storm drains.
3. Sewer trunk lines.
4. Street and alley paving.
5. Addition to public library and equipment.
6. Recreation buildings, including: (a) recreation, arts and crafts at WALTERIA; (b) central district recreation; (c) purchase of land and lighting of Fern Avenue playground; (d) initial construction, or first unit, on grandstand at Torrance ball park.
7. Addition to, alterations and equipment at civic auditorium.
8. New fire station and training tower, central district; new fire station, WALTERIA; land for two stations.
9. Remodeling of old fire station into police station; court room, judge's chambers and garages.

Some state financing will be available, particularly on the sewer trunk lines, it is reported. Provisions for city financing of the cutting through, widening and paving of Western avenue might be deducted from the street and alley proposal.

By presenting the bond issue proposals separately, the people will have an opportunity to adopt or reject any or all of them, it was pointed out.

It is expected that the election can be held in June.

## ON TERMINAL LEAVE

Sgt. Conrad Christensen, ATC, accompanied by Mrs. Christensen, has returned for a 15-day terminal leave from his base in Cincinnati. Following a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Christensen of 1820 Marcolina ave., he will report at Long Beach ATC base.

## JOSHUA HENDY TORRANCE WORKS' OPERATIONS WILL RESUME IN NEAR FUTURE

Joshua Hendy Iron Works' Torrance plant will resume operations in about 10 days, engaging in general manufacturing, it was revealed yesterday.

Workers are sandblasting the interior of the buildings on Lomita Blvd. preparatory to painting.

## Sontag Store Here Doubling In Floor Area

Sontag Drug Stores have undertaken to double the capacity of the Torrance store, already rated as one of the best in the whole organization.

Twenty-five thousand dollars will be spent in building a new brick structure, 30 feet by 140 feet in size.

In addition to allowing the expansion of the drug store, the new improvement will include a modern soda fountain and lunch counter such as are featured in many other of the company's stores.

The company is expressing implicit faith in Torrance and its future, while the community has welcomed the store by patronage which has placed it in a top position among the stores of the entire Owl Sontag system.

## Walteria Sewer Plan Asked Of City Council

Sewer facilities for Torrance will be the second most important consideration for the City of Torrance after the water question is carried to a successful conclusion, it is indicated by representatives of various districts of the community.

Already demanding council action to solve sewage problems are the people of South and Southwest Torrance.

Walteria long ago served notice upon the council that as soon as the water problems of the area are cared for, residents will seek proper sewage facilities.

The demand for sewers has been voiced from time to time in the council meetings, and now that the Walteria water district has been formed, the reminder has been dropped that the sewer question needs attention.

Torrance is a part of County Sanitary District No. 5.

## Last City Fireman Returns From Service

Sgt. Gordon Northington, Torrance fireman until his enlistment in the Army Air Corps in 1942, recently received his discharge after serving the past 12 months on Okinawa.

Northington marks the last city fireman to return from the service and is expected to rejoin the department following a trip east for the purpose of bringing his family back to this city.

## War Department Cites Miss Mills For Morale Building Activities

Miss Irene Mills, head of the English department of Torrance High school, has been cited by the War Department for efforts during the war years in building the morale of former students of Torrance high in the armed forces as well as aiding the morale of other service men who came in contact with former Torrance boys.

A certificate from the War Department, signed by Robert P. Patterson, secretary of war, and H. H. Arnold, commanding general, Army Air Forces, reads: "The War Department expresses its appreciation for patriotic service in a position of trust and responsibility to Miss Irene Mills in recognition of her outstanding service in the successful prosecution of World War II by unselfishly devoting her time and energy toward building and maintaining a high standard of morale and by materially contributing to the welfare of the men and women of the armed forces who are alumni of the Torrance High School, Torrance, California." The certificate was dated Jan. 10, 1946.

In addition to the certificate, Miss Mills received a letter from Lt. Col. Michael Turner McLean, stationed in Washington, in which he declared: "I want to express my sincere appreciation to you and to all those who worked with you so faithfully sending me your little 'newsie' letter and the high school paper. I'm sure all other ex-Torrance high service personnel appreciated the results of your time and effort as much as I. The results of your work in building and upholding the morale of service personnel who were the recipients of the letter and paper is of incalculable value. The morale building effect of your

## COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, RESIDENTIAL EXPANSION WAITS ON PLANNING BODY

Torrance City Planning Commission has under advisement three measures which, if approved, will contribute to residential, commercial and industrial expansion of Torrance.

Considered for second and final hearing Tuesday night was the matter of the elimination of setbacks on alleys of lots in the commercial district. With the 20-foot alleys of Torrance allowing sufficient size to allow loading and unloading of the largest trucks without blocking the alleys, business men testified that there is no need for the 10 and 15 foot setback provisions for commercial buildings.

The commission heard no protest against abandonment of the setback and will rule on the petition of the commercial interests, who said much local expansion awaits the action, within 30 days.

Also under consideration is a proposal to reduce the minimum size of residential lots to 5000 square feet. This will permit more lots per acre and allow for building on a wider front, with less depth. Present zoning regulations require subdivisions to provide for lots of 8500 square feet in size.

Another measure, taken under advisement, is the petition for rezoning of the territory between Oak st. and Chenshaw Blvd. just south of Carson st. The property is being sold by Chanslor-Cansfield Midway Oil Co. to International Derrick Equipment Co., providing that it can be rezoned for heavy manufacturing. It now is multiple residential and light commercial. IDECO wants to expand westward, closing Oak ave. south of Carson st.

Closing of Oak ave. is reported to await the finding of a new outlet for the area in city.

Permits for expansion of two Torrance companies were issued by the city building department during the past week.

General Petroleum Corp. secured a permit to build a 40 by 140 foot steel frame machine shop, costing \$26,000, and for reinforcements to a control house costing \$3500.

Torrance Brass Foundry secured a permit to build a corrugated front warehouse costing \$8500.

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## Voters Have One Month To Register

All residents of Torrance who are not at present registered voters and who wish to cast their votes in the general election to be held April 9 must register before Feb. 28. City Clerk A. H. Bartlett made this announcement in discussing the coming general election at which time voters of Torrance will be called upon to elect representatives to fill two vacancies occurring on the City Council.

Terms of Councilmen J. E. Hitchcock and N. H. Cucei expire.

The terms of City Clerk Bartlett and City Treasurer Harriett Leech also expire. Bartlett has announced his intention of seeking reelection for a sixth term.

The first day for filing notice of candidacy for election is Feb. 8 and the closing day, Feb. 28.

Bartlett urged that all qualified electors in Torrance register to vote, and those who have moved since last registering should again register.

Deputies are on hand in the city clerk's office for registration and will be placed in the field later.

## FORMER WAC VISITS

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur A. Thistle, of 1614 Acacia ave., have as their house guest, her cousin, Sgt. Edith Parks, WAC, of Santa Ana, recently discharged following three years' service and 17 months' duty in Germany, England and France.

## INTRICATE PROBLEMS MUST BE SOLVED BY CITY IN NEW WATER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The City Council has some intricate problems to work out in providing a water system for Southwest Torrance sufficient to take care of the growth of the area, which already is in the making, Mayor W. H. Tolson declared.

The principal hurdle is that of financing expansion of a system to provide water for new areas when the original plan voted by the people of the district recently contemplated serving little more than the present center of population, it was said, particularly WALTERIA.

## Shell Grants Workers 18% Pay Increase

Employees of Shell Chemical plant in Torrance have been granted an increase in wages of 18 percent retroactive to Jan. 1, 1946, it has been announced by Earl Garrison, unit chairman for local No. 128, of the Oil Workers, C.I.O. Fifteen percent of the pay raise is retroactive to Oct. 1, 1945.

In addition, shift differential pay increase of 6 and 4 percent was granted, back to Dec. 15, 1944. This will amount to about 80 cents per day, and it will mean that some 133 employees will get an average of \$360 each in back pay.

In the matter of take home pay, the new pay raise means that operators will get an average of \$2.50 per day more than they were getting during the war, Garrison said.

The Shell Oil Co. was the first company in the district to offer 6 and 4 percent differential and the 18 percent increase in pay. All wage disputes between the union and Shell now are settled, Garrison said.

## Fire On 182nd St. Destroys House And Car

A fire spurred by oil and distillate destroyed a street house occupied by Mr. and Mrs. S. V. Magallanes during the noon hour Tuesday. Fire Chief J. E. McMaster said that children playing with matches believed to have started the blaze which also destroyed a car nearby.

The property located at 2021 W. 182 st., is owned by M. Grunizny. Chief McMaster said that drums of oil and distillate stored beside the house were responsible for the complete loss. The amount of the damage was not determined. Mrs. Magallanes sustained minor burns when she attempted to salvage belongings from the fire.

Wants Water For All

The city's water district, have been asked by Mayor Tolson to look into possible ways in which the \$150,000 bond issue voted by the people can be stretched to serve a wider area than that contemplated in the Taylor & Taylor survey approved and adopted by the council and voters of the district.

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## Senior A's Elect Officers

A combined class meeting of the Senior A homeboys was held last Monday for the purpose of electing new class officers.

The two major officers elected were: President, Bill Johnson, and vice-president, Doug Bodner. Formerly consisting of three sections because of their large number, it was decided that the class would be better organized to combine them and use the study hall for the home room.

## Bohn Plant Leasing Hailed By Industry

The recent leasing of the government-owned Bohn Aluminum Company plant in Torrance to the Harvey Machine Company originally announced by the Torrance Herald is cheered by Southern California industrialists as an indication that West Coast firms will have at least a fighting chance against monopolistic eastern outfits.

This was reported by Los Angeles Councilman Ed J. Davenport, who said numerous industrialists and business men have phoned his office to ask that he thank the city council for its action several weeks ago.

The council had adopted a resolution introduced by Davenport protesting conversion of government-owned plants into private warehouses, such as could result from the sale or lease of the plants to certain eastern firms.

Approval of leasing of the Bohn plant was given by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation a few days ago, marking the first disposal of a war-born aluminum finishing plant.

Terms of the lease, not yet released, are expected to set a pattern which will be important to the development of independent industry on the West Coast, keeping out large monopolistic firms.

Rental on the eight million-dollar plant will be based on a percentage of the plant's net earnings, and the lease will run for five years, the RFC has reported.

## Torrance Weather Record

Official U. S. Weather Bureau

TEMPERATURE			
Jan.	Max.	Min.	Set.
23	74	39	63
24	69	44	56
25	74	41	57
26	77	45	64
27	77	42	62
28	77	42	62
29	83	46	65



WINS WAR DEPARTMENT CITATION . . . Miss Irene Mills, head of the English department of Torrance high school, has been cited by the War Department for her efforts in morale building in keeping up correspondence with more than 1000 Torrance men and women in the service during the war.

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